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## Early June After Each September

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## Early June After Each September

-Susan Auld-

Sweet scents of summer honeysuckle  
catch a ride  
    on the back of a breeze  
        flowing through the open window  
            lifting the hem of the lace curtain.

I exhale, expecting to see the smoke of my breath  
but the chill catches in my throat  
and I wrap my shawl around my shoulders  
to calm the cold  
in the warm air.

Your echo ripples through our rooms,  
silent-movie lights flicker  
on the darkened hallway walls  
where your shadow roams,  
and, I sit in my chair

near the open window  
listening for the crunch on the drive,  
the thud of the car door,  
the clink of keys, waiting  
for the lazy stretch of the calico cat,  
turning her head toward the door in anticipation.

I cradle your photo in my arms  
keeping you safe and close and warm.  
In return you comfort me  
as I rock back and forth  
a whiff of your musky cologne tickles my nose.

I feel the weight of your hand on my shoulder  
and I turn around,  
knowing  
that you must have slipped in the back door,  
realizing  
that you must have caught a ride  
    on the back of the breeze  
        that lifted the hem of the lace curtain.